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# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

IN RE FRAGRANCE DIRECT ANTITRUST LITIGATION

IN RE FRAGRANCE INDIRECT ANTITRUST LITIGATION

IN RE FRAGRANCE END-USER ANTITRUST LITIGATION

This document relates to: ALL ACTIONS

Civil Action No. 2:23cv-02174-WJM-JSA

Civil Action No. 2:23cv-03249-WJM-JSA

Civil Action No. 2:23cv-16127-WJM-JSA

JOINT STIPULATION AND ORDER RE: LIMITED STAY OF DISCOVERY

Judge: William J. Martini

WHEREAS these consolidated civil cases allege a conspiracy to fix prices and restrain trade in the fragrance market globally and within the United States in violation of state and federal antitrust laws and state consumer protection and unjust enrichment laws;

WHEREAS there is an ongoing federal criminal antitrust investigation concerning the worldwide fragrances industry;

WHEREAS the Court granted the United States' Motion to Intervene for the purpose of seeking a limited discovery stay;

WHEREAS the parties and the United States have met and conferred regarding the parameters and scope of a limited stay of discovery; and

WHEREAS agreement by the Plaintiffs in the above-captioned actions to this Stipulation is conditioned upon the Court's entry of an amended scheduling order that defers the filing of amended complaints and briefing on any renewed 12(b)(2) motions until after expiration or termination of a stay of discovery with respect to the topics identified in Paragraphs 4 and 5 below;

NOW THEREFORE, PLAINTIFFS AND DEFENDANTS IN THE ABOVE-CAPTIONED CASES, AND THE UNITED STATES, BY AND

THROUGH THEIR UNDERSIGNED COUNSEL, HEREBY STIPULATE AND AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. This Stipulation and Order shall be in effect in the above-captioned cases until February 15, 2026 ("Limited Stay Period"). During the Limited Stay Period, no discovery shall be conducted under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, except as set forth herein.

## **Permissible Subjects**

- 2. During the Limited Stay Period discovery may proceed only on the following exhaustive list of Permissible Subjects. Discovery on the Permissible Subjects is still subject to the limitations of Paragraphs 3, 4, and 5.
  - (a) production of supply contracts relevant to the sale of fragrance ingredients and/or fragrance compounds ("Fragrance Products") in the United States;
  - (b) discovery regarding the following information about formal meetings of trade associations, conferences, or conventions concerning Fragrance Products to be sold in the United States: (i) name(s) of meeting(s) or conference(s); (ii) dates of meeting(s) or conference(s); (iii) location(s) of the meeting(s) or convention(s); and (iv) names of employees in attendance;

- (c) discovery from any non-party, except for: (i) any former party;
- (ii) any present or former owner, in whole or in part, of a current or former Defendant; (iii) any entity presently or formerly, directly or indirectly owned, in whole or in part, by a current or former Defendant; (iv) any former officer, director, or employee of a current or former Defendant; and (v) any current or former contractor or consultant engaged by a current or former Defendant;
- (d) discovery regarding centrally-maintained transactional and statistical data (and pre-existing reports summarizing such data) regarding sales of Fragrance Products; if a party has no such data, discovery of records reflecting sales of Fragrance Products;
- (e) discovery regarding corporate organizational structure, including organizational charts, parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, corporate divisions, control and management structure, generally;
- (f) discovery regarding the existence and details regarding the storage, location, retention, destruction, and identification of documents and ESI; and
  - (g) production of antitrust policies and manuals.

Page 5 of 10 PageID:

# **Discovery Limitations**

Document 168

- 3. At no point during this litigation shall any discovery be conducted that refers or relates to the government investigation concerning the fragrances industry, including but not limited to any party's or witness's communications with the United States.
- 4. During the Limited Stay Period, no discovery shall be conducted under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure that refers or relates in whole or in part to any understandings, agreements, meetings, or communications of any kind relating to sales or pricing in the fragrances industry, except:
  - (a) as provided in paragraph 6 below;
  - (b) as to supply contracts described in paragraph 2(a);
  - (c) as to meetings as described in paragraph 2(b); and
  - (d) to the extent such understandings or agreements are reflected in the transactional data described in paragraph 2(d).
- 5. No depositions may be taken during the Limited Stay Period, except for depositions of non-parties, as defined in paragraph 2(c).

## Reservations

6. Nothing in this Stipulation shall prevent any party from: (i) serving interrogatories, requests for admission, requests for production, or non-party subpoenas on any subject; (ii) responding with written objections to discovery

Page 6 of 10 PageID:

requests on any subject; (iii) preserving documents and electronically stored information ("ESI") requested by a party in discovery; and (iv) collecting documents and ESI responsive to written discovery during the Limited Stay Period.

- 7. Nothing in this Stipulation shall be construed as an admission that discovery of any Permissible Subject exists or is appropriate or discoverable under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, this Court's orders, or other applicable rules or laws.
- 8. Nothing in this Stipulation shall be construed as an admission, agreement or acknowledgement about the scope of jurisdictional discovery.
- 9. The parties reserve all objections under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Federal Rules of Evidence, this Court's Local Rules, and all other applicable rules or laws.
- 10.Unless otherwise covered by the terms of the Stipulation, all discovery shall proceed in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, this Court's Local Rules, and all other applicable rules or laws.
- 11. All written discovery requests and written responses shall be served on the United States at the same time as the receiving party.
- 12. During the Limited Stay Period, all parties and the United States retain the right to move the Court to modify, lift, or extend the stay, and to oppose any such

motion.

IT IS SO STIPULATED.

Date: August 13, 2025

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Document 168

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IT IS SO ORDERED:

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Hon. Jessica S. Allen, U.S.M.J.

Date: August 26, 2025